

House Republican Press Release

April 18, 2006
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Farr: Bill to Deter Parents from Hosting Keg Parties for Teenagers Passes House



Legislation that would make it illegal for parents or other adults to host parties for teenagers and other underage drinkers at their homes or apartments was approved Tuesday by the state House of Representatives on a 123 – 23 vote, state Representative Bob Farr, R-19th District, a cosponsor of the measure, said today.

“This bill will protect responsible parents and their children from irresponsible parents who host parties where the consumption of alcoholic beverages by teenagers and other underage drinkers is tolerated,” said Representative Farr, who spoke in favor of the bill in debate on the floor of the House. “The message we are sending to parents who hold keg parties for their high school or junior high school children and their friends is that they now can expect that the guests also will include the police.”

“In addition to recent incidents involving parents who held parties where alcohol was consumed by underage drinkers with tragic results, we are all aware of the problem of college students running afoul of the law after bouts of binge drinking. Most of us thought that the time was right to let irresponsible parents and other adults know they now can expect to be arrested if they hold parties like these and the word gets out to police,” Representative Farr said.

”If you are a parent with teenage children and want to host a party for them, you no longer will be able to make a decision about whether someone else’s children can or cannot consume alcoholic beverages at your home. That is a decision that is up to their parents to make – and it is one that you make at your own risk,” Representative Farr said.

The bill makes it illegal for parents or other adults to knowingly allow minors to illegally possess alcohol in their home or apartment unit or on their property. The bill makes a first offense an infraction and subsequent offenses subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

The measure (**House Bill 5211**) now goes to the state Senate for further action.